

Admiral Forrest Percival Sherman

(1896–1951)

Chief of Naval Operations

VITA

Born in Merrimack, New Hampshire; graduated from Naval Academy (1917); served in Atlantic and Mediterranean in World War I; *USS Reid* (1920); commanded *USS Barry* (1921); *USS Florida* (1921–22); flight training, Pensacola (1922); fighting squadron 2, *USS Aroostook* (1923–24); flight instructor, Pensacola (1924–26); Naval War College (1926–27); *USS Lexington* and *USS Saratoga* (1931–32); commanded fighting squadron 1 (1932–33); director, aviation ordnance section, Bureau of Ordnance (1933–36); *USS Ranger* (1936–37); staff positions (1937–40); war plans division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (1940–42); commanded *USS Wasp* (1942); chief of staff to Admiral John Towers (1943); deputy chief of staff to Admiral Chester Nimitz (1943–45); commanded carrier division 1 (1945–47); commander of naval forces in Mediterranean (1948–49); Chief of Naval Operations (1949–51); died at Naples, Italy.



Naval Historical Center

Unification of operational command of forces, including air, in each theater and area is conducive to the most effective conduct of war. It is essential to the defense of key positions in time of peace. . . . It should provide for joint training in peace as well as in war. On the other hand, unification or centralization of administration in any headquarters is usually prejudicial to its effectiveness in the conduct of war. Preoccupation with administrative matters prevents concentration on operations.

Operational command can be unified completely and adequately in Washington and in the field, in peace and war, irrespective of the administrative organization of the national defense into one, two, or three departments. Joint staffs have been and can be formed effectively under any departmental system.

In Washington, unity of operational command can be and should be achieved under the President by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and their numerous subordinate agencies.

—From statement by Forrest P. Sherman before the Military Affairs Committee (November 30, 1945)